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EXECUTED WITH SPEED AND DESPATCH.

POETRY.

WRITTEN FOR THE DEMOCRAT.

THE FIRST PRAYER IN RUMFORD.

One lovely day, 'twas seventy years ago,
Just as the sun was sinking down to rest,
Two travelers issued from the changing wood,
And stood upon the river's western shore.
Wearied and worn were they; for they had come
Far, far from home, the father and his son,
Of seven years old, had toiled for many a day
Thro' trackless forest, seeking a new home
On ocean's bosom, and the peaceful shore.
Full many a lovely spot had tempted them
To pause awhile. That morning they had stood
By the steep bank, when sunset's glow threw
A gleam of glory on the plain.
And I spied with a sudden gleam of light,
And the white foam that was the sea's embrace,
Then turned away. "No," said the father,
"I will not leave you here; I will not leave you here."
In mighty power, and like the sea's embrace,
I better love the place where the deep stream,
A fitting emblem of the love of Christ,
Flows clear and noiseless, making earth rejoice.
They plunged again in the thick woods and now
Were standing here. "Ay, here," he murmured low,
"We'll make our home." "Here, on this charming
plain,
Mid these majestic trees the angels shall rise
From happy contemplation from the world's shore;
By these surrounding hills, we'll make ourselves
A little Eden; and should staid invade
This lovely scene, or careless folk distract
This weary day, at evening we will come
To this green bank, and look upon the stream
Flowing so sweetly on, so smooth, so calm,
That every weary soul will flow away,
And each unhappy thought be calmed to peace."
The sun's last rays had left the golden wave
While he was speaking; but a fingered still
Upon the summit of the west eld mountains,
And all the west was clothed in gorgeous clouds
Of gold, and crimson, and the rich, dark woods
Reposed in shade, while the whole air was sweet
With summer flowers, and from the forest's heart
Gushed the wild birds sweet hymns.

The boy's young heart was filled
With glory that he had no words to tell.
But by his side, the father's voice burst forth
In words of prayer. "Thy glory Heaven declares,
And the new earth's song is Thy handy work:
We'll praise Thy Name!" Then, kneeling down
in prayer,
A gleam of David, and his soul poured out
In prayer to God. "Thou art the God who art
In that great place, Father, that Thy God
Would bless their household, and would make this
land
A second Canaan. The strong fervent prayer
Went up through the surrounding woods, and passed
The bow of the vault to the Eternal Throne.
Paris, September, 1855. S.

"An introduction to a story in 'The Democrat,' is
given as an example of a really excellent of Rumford.

POPULAR VERSES.

From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier.

THIS ORPHAN BOY.

BY J. B. FOSTER.

Chapter I.

"The poorest treasure mortal time affords,
In quietude; that away,
Men are but gilded fools, or painted clay."
[Shakespeare.]

I hate to write a long introduction! and many
readers, I know, dislike as much to read one.
Therefore, with your permission, dear reader, we
will proceed to tell our tale in a plain, straight
forward manner, without any of the metaphori-
cal, or even the most common, figures employed by
the story tellers of the present day.

Eva Lincoln was a young girl, about sixteen
years of age, who was the daughter of a poor
man, and was the only child of her mother.

Her father was a very plain man, in manner
and appearance. He had acquired his fortune
(which was large) by assiduous industry, and a
close economical management of business. He
left the whole management of domestic affairs to

his wife, who was very discreet in such matters,
always looking well to her own interest, even if
others suffered in consequence. She was the
daughter of a wealthy man, but through the igno-
rance, perhaps, of the male sex, as regards her
qualifications, she had reached an age something
beyond girlhood, before she was united in hy-
men's holy bonds. She had married Mr. Lincoln
not for love, for this was a feeling that she had
probably never experienced, but because it was
an eligible match, and an only offer.

It could not be expected that one who had
never loved, would possess much sympathy for an-
other's dealing with the blind God. Nor did
Mrs. Lincoln; as the following conversation will
show.

"Who was that visited you this morning?" asked
she of her daughter, on the morning our tale
commences.
"No one but Henry Grey."
"And why was he here?"
"I am sure I do not know—why does any one
visit us?"
"To enjoy our society, and to form an ac-
quaintance I suppose."
"Well, that was probably the occasion of his
call."

"But he comes very often."
"Not too often, mother!"
"Not to suit you, perhaps; but I had rather
have more like angels visit."
"Why so mother?—what harm has he done to
you?"
"None that I know of—but I do not like him."
"But he is not to blame for your dislikes."
"That may be; but I can't comprehend what
there is in him you see so inviting."

"Nothing more in him, mother, than in every
respectable, honorable young man."
"But you have a preference?"
"Perhaps—who has not?"
"And because you have a foolish liking for
this Grey, I must admire him too?"
"I said not that, mother," replied Eva, calmly.
"But you do admire him."
"I have not said that I did!"
"But actions speak louder than words. And,
Eva, I do not, for your sake, and for the credit
of the family, wish you to associate with him."

"Why not? Is he not of good standing, and
admitted into the best society?"
"He was when he first came here; for he was
well recommended by Doctor Mason, of Albany."
"He is some connection of the Doctor's—is
he not?"
"So it was thought at first; but George Mar-
vin says he is not."

"How does he know?"
"Why he has been living in Albany, with his
sister, for some months past, and he says that
he is a poor boy that the Doctor took out of charity
and no relation whatever."
"I cannot believe that story, mother, for you
know that George owes Henry no good will, at
least."

"Why, George is a gentleman, and will expose
any one that pretends to be what they are not."
"But what difference can it make provided he
is no connection of the Doctor's? I cannot see."
"Why if he is not, he is an impostor; and has
been admitted into society above his birth and
standing."

"I cannot see it in this light; for you say he
was recommended by the Doctor as being a
worthy young man."
"That may be, and still descended from the
very dregs of society."
"But if this is the case and he conducts himself
in a gentlemanly manner, it ought not to be any
disgrace to him."

"Why, Eva! I care say that if his father and
mother had both died in the poor-house, you
would say it was no disgrace to him."
"So I should, mother, and think he was wor-
thy of more respect, having raised himself to his
present standing by his own exertions."
"But, Eva," said the mother, solemnly, "would
you marry him were this the case?"
"I should wait until I received proposals!"
"But I do not wish to have him propose; for
he is not a suitable match for you, even if his
parentage were good."

"Why, mother?"
"Because he has only commenced his studies,
and—"
"But you forget he is already practising."
"Well! that makes no difference—he is, as I
said before, just commencing business, and hav-
ing nothing to commence with, it must neces-
sarily be some time, even if he has remarkable suc-
cess, before he can be in a situation to support
a woman in the style in which you are used to
living."

"It is because he is poor that you do not ad-
mire him, you would say?"
"That is one reason, Eva."
"But he is in the same condition that my father
was when he commenced business."
"Your father was wealthy when I married
him!"
"That may be; but you would not have refus-
ed him had he been penniless?"
"Yes I would; and I advise you as a mother
who feels for your welfare, to look well to your
own interests. And as regards this report re-
specting Grey's parentage, if I find it to be true
I shall not receive his visits in future." Thus say-
ing, she left the room.

Eva was surprised at the turn the conversation
had taken; and although she doubted not but
that her mother had spoken the sentiments of her
heart, yet thought she, "My mother never loved
me; she must have ever been a stranger to that high
and holy feeling—that ardent affection which in-
validates my heart. Her cold calculations are not
clothed economical management of business. He
left the whole management of domestic affairs to

not love to have my fondest hopes blasted by dis-
appointment—and to feel that I am despised. But
I care not for this silly story of George Marvin.
I'll have once refused, and his mean mind
could suggest no better revenge than thus to
slandering one who is far above him in every thing
but wealth—which is with me, but a secondary
object."

Chapter III.

"Men that make
Envy, and crooked malice nourishment,
Dare bite the best."
"Tis a cruelty,
To love a falling man." [King Henry VIII.]

Henry Grey was a young man of fine appear-
ance, and commanding talent. His natural abil-
ity had been much improved by a course of stud-
ies under the direction of his friend and guar-
dian, Doctor Mason. The doctor well knew that
Henry was dependent upon his own exertions;
and he doubted not but that with a good educa-
tion he would in time, win for himself a name
and reputation which would be far more lasting
and more benefit than a princely fortune.

With this view he had, a few years before our
story commences, written to a friend of his, an
eminent member of the Bar in New York, to su-
perintend the studies of his ward. And accord-
ingly Henry had taken up his residence in that
city.

He was immediately admitted into the most re-
fined society, and attracted by the beauty, at first
of Eva, he was led to form an acquaintance with
her, which resulted in a feeling of congenial
attachment. And though neither had spoken of
their passion but by bright glances, that told
of love to eyes that looked love again; yet both felt
certain there was a reciprocal feeling between
them.

Henry was admired by many for his ready wit
and playful, pleasing manner of conversation.
I say by many, for there were some who envied
him his good fortune; and among this number
was George Marvin. He saw that his rival was
greeted with evident pleasure, and his appear-
ance welcomed with smiles, where he only re-
ceived a cold, formal welcome. And when he
proposed for the hand of Eva Lincoln, and was
refused, he cursed his more fortunate rival as he
considered Henry and swore to be revenged.

But Henry cared not for him, nor his revenge;
he knew that the wealth of George Marvin was
all that he possessed, and had it not been for that
he would have been shunned, instead of courted;
for he was gifted with but very little common
sense, and was as unprincipled as he was igno-
rant.

But there are characters in every community
who are always ready to retail slander, no matter
from what source it originates. And it was so
in this case. At first few believed the story in-
dustriously circulated by George Marvin. And
he told, he said only what he had heard; he did
not vouch for the truth of the report. But

In this way it was whispered around, at first,
that Henry Grey was no better than he should
be. That he was not what he seemed. And it
was finally boldly asserted by some that he had
been taken from the "poor-house" by Doctor Ma-
son, and who his parents were was never known.
These reports caused quite a sensation among
the aristocratic members of the community; for
none could be admitted into their circles whose
birth was not acknowledged to be of respectabil-
ity, unless, forsooth, they possessed fortune, and
then this was overlooked, or not enquired after.
In this manner was Henry's reputation and stand-
ing injured in the estimation of many, before he
was aware that there were any such reports in
circulation. In fact, he was not aware of it until
one day George Marvin, wishing to see what
effect it would have upon his victim, came at the
office where he was employed, and asked him in
a friendly manner if he was to attend the party
that evening.

"What party?" asked Henry.
"Why have you not been invited?"
"I do not know to what you refer."
"Why, Mrs. Lincoln gives a splendid fete to-
night to which all the elite are invited."
"I have not heard of it."
"And you are not going to attend?"
"Of course not."
"No! no! of course not, without an invita-
tion, but why you have been overlooked, I cannot
see."

"Nor do I care," said Henry in a nonchalant
manner.
"But I should care, for all the respectability
are to be there."
"Then I am not respectable," said Henry.
"You are aware, then, of the reports, are you?"
"What reports? I have heard none."
"Concerning your—"
"My what?"
"Don't be excited—I should not have mention-
ed it, if I had supposed that I was telling any news."

"Well! what is it? out with it, man;
nothing horrible, I hope!"
"Oh! no! nothing for which you are to blame;
only I have heard it said—in fact it is generally
believed—that your parents were—"
"Were what? let me know; were what?"
"Were never known; in fact, that you are the
offspring of—"
"Say no more, sir!" exclaimed Henry. "I have
heard enough."

This was what George had wished, and a
state of satisfaction stole across his features when
he saw that the shot had taken effect.
Henry was surprised, this was something

which he had never dreamed of as being derogato-
ry to him. But he now saw at a glance what
use would be made of the circumstances to com-
plete his ruin in the estimation of those he held
most dear. He, however, recovered his com-
posure in a few moments and said—

"I had not been informed of this before; and
am indebted to you, sir."

"I am sorry," said George, "that I have wound-
ed your feelings, for, believe me, I had no such
intention. And I cannot doubt but what this is
why Mrs. Lincoln has neglected you. Give me
leave to contradict this foolish report."

"No—I do not condescend to notice every idle
rumor by those who prey upon the reputation of
honorable men."

"But I am innocent of any intentions to injure
you."

"I have accused none, nor shall I, but my busi-
ness calls me away." So saying, he left the office.
George Marvin had done his worst; for this
was a subject upon which Henry was particu-
larly sensitive. That his birth was involved in
mystery to all but himself and his guardian, he
was aware; but he had hoped that upon this
subject he would never be questioned; nor did he
consider that he was responsible for any one's ac-
tions but his own. "But now," said he, "this must
be trumpeted through the town by every retailer
of scandal, as though on me devolved the respon-
sibility of my parents' actions. But dear sinned
mother, I cannot suffer nothing in comparison
with my sufferings, and I will not complain,
though my fate is hard. But Eva! can she be-
lieve this slander? I know she does not. She is
far above those simple, smothering ones, who view
with horror those who cannot trace their origin
back to some noble house, which, thank Heaven,
I can do, if I would. But her mother must needs
show her consequence by looking above such low
born ones as me. Well I care not. In this coun-
try, every one is the maker of his own fortunes,
and I will yet win a name by my own exertions,
of which I can never be deprived by the subtle,
slandering tongue."

Chapter III.

"Hope is a lover's staff; walk hence with that,
And manage it against despairing thoughts."

The evening of the party came. The spacious
rooms of Mr. Lincoln's superb mansion were
filled to overflowing with the beauty and talent
of the city. There was music, rich in sweet
sounds; and the poetry of motion was shown in
the giddy dance. All seemed to be joyous and
happy. Yet there was one who sat sorrowfully
apart, and would not mix with the gay throng.
She who should have been the gayest of the gay,
left not, nor hardly noticed, that gay scene. She
cast her eyes around the room—beauty, elegance
and wit, were on every side; but one was want-
ing. There was a vacancy in heart that the ad-
ulation of flatterers could not fill. And, sighing,
Eva Lincoln wondered at what she had heard
and seen.

"Come," said Mrs. Lincoln, approaching her
daughter, "you must dance the next set with
George Marvin."

"I cannot dance to-night, mother."

"Cannot! You must. See, they are waiting
for you now."

"Ah, Miss Lincoln, you are looking superb to-
night. Do you dance?" said George Marvin.

"I think not."

"You are not fond of the amusement?"

"Not very."

"Ah, Mrs. Lincoln," said he, as the old lady
approached. "Splendid party!—all the fashion-
able of the city, I believe, are here. It goes beyond
everything of the kind this season."

"I intended it should," said the old lady.

"And it does. I have been wondering why
Eva here—I mean Mrs. Lincoln—does not dance.
But I forget; she is probably engaged to Mr.
Grey!"

"Mr. Grey is not here."

"Not here! I thought he was a favorite of
yours."

"You thought wrong, then, for I did not invite
him, even."

"Ah! I thought so, who overheard her moth-
er's remark; that, then, is the reason of his ab-
sence. But why should this be so? I will know
the reason of this neglect."

So saying, she asked her mother, who just then
came round—

"Why have you not sent Henry an invitation?"

"Because I did not desire his presence."

"But, mother—"

"I don't want to hear any of your 'buts!' He
is not admitted into select circles now; and I
shall not break through the established etiquette
just because you have a foolish preference for
some low born impostor!"

This was Eva answered by her mother, who
would have destroyed her own and her daughter's
happiness, rather than to have any of her aristo-
cratic friends think that she demeaned herself by
associating with any one so low in birth as report
announced Henry Grey to be.

Eva wondered how her mother could be so en-
tirely regardless of her feelings; and, with a sorrowing
heart, she went retired to her own apartment, to
mourn in silence and alone.

Chapter IV.

"And that should teach us,
There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough hew them how we will!"
[Julius Caesar.]

When Henry again visited Eva, he was receiv-
ed with evident pleasure; but her mother scarce-
ly deigned to speak to him. This Henry did not
seem to notice, and she left the room.

"Eva," said he, as her mother had retired, "it
has been some time since I was so fortunate as
to form an acquaintance with you; and subse-
quent events leads me to think that some history
of myself may not be uninteresting."

"It would be very gratifying to me," said Eva.

"And reports, of late, derogatory to me and
my parentage, I understand, have been in cir-
culation. Perhaps you may have heard them."

"I have, but I did not believe them."

"Thank you! thank you!" said Henry. "I
have one friend, then."

"You have many, I hope."

"I fear you hope against certainties. But, to
my tale—if you will condescend to listen?"

"I shall hear you with pleasure."

Some time since, Doctor Mason, who is a
worthy man, and one whom I respect, informed
me that many years previous he was called upon
to visit a woman, who lay sick in a house near
his residence. He found, when he arrived, a
young woman, who had been there some four
weeks. She was a stranger, but she had fallen
among those who pined the distresses of the un-
fortunate, and were ever ready to extend the
hand of charity to those who were suffering.
The sick woman was very low—already beyond
the reach of medicine—and in a few days she di-
ed. The Doctor had taken some interest in her,
and, at her decease, she was decently buried at
his expense. That woman was my mother! I
can just recollect of following her remains to the
grave—the last resting place of all! She was
my last, my only friend—and the sorrow that my
young heart then experienced, I hope you may
never feel. I stood at the head of the grave, and
saw my mother's body being lowered into the
earth, and another they fell upon the coffin. And when the
task was done, the grave closed up, and my moth-
er hidden forever from my sight, I turned away,
and wept in agony! I had now no friends—no
home—and I wished, ardently wished, that I had
been buried with her.

While thus I stood, absorbed in my grief, the
Doctor came and took me by the hand, and in a
kind manner tried to console me for the loss of
my parent; and at last he persuaded me to accom-
pany him home. And a home, indeed, his house
has ever been to me. And the love which I bear
him could be no greater were he my father.

When he informed me of these circumstances,
he gave me a manuscript written by my mother.
I have read it, time and again, and if you will, I
wish you to peruse it. I can say no more—for
my feelings overcome me when I think upon this
subject. Adieu for the present—I leave the story
of my mother's wrongs with you."

Eva was much surprised at what she had heard
and she almost revered the old Doctor for his
kindness towards her lover.

When she had composed her feelings, she took
the paper which Henry had left, and read with
interest the following:

"To my son Henry:

"For your benefit I employ the few remaining
days allotted me here on earth, in writing a short
account of myself and your father, whom you
have not seen since you were two years of age."

"I was the daughter of obscure parents resi-
ding in England; for there all are obscure, who
are not titled. My father was a good liver, al-
though not wealthy; and upon me he doted, for
I was an only child. My time passed pleasantly
away, without any care or trouble to render me
unhappy, until I was about sixteen years old. I
then lost my mother, as you, my Henry, are
about to lose me. And may God protect you, for
you have no other protector! I deeply felt the
loss of my parent; but the young are not natu-
rally inclined to sorrow, and my grief soon wore
away."

"It seemed as though my father's love for me
increased after the death of my mother. And I
cannot look back to our once happy home, even
at this day, but the tear of sorrow will dim my
eye."

"When I was nineteen, I became acquainted
with James Grey, second and youngest son of
Lord Grey, upon whose estate my father lived.
He had been hunting, when he was caught in a
severe shower, and sought shelter in our cottage.
He was young—not more than twenty—and, as I
thought, of remarkably good appearance. After
our first interview, he frequently called at the cot-
tage—and, Henry, I loved him, with pure, ardent
love; and I have no doubt but that the feeling
was reciprocal—for like an honorable man, as
he assuredly was, he proposed marriage. I was
aware of the great difference in our respective
stations, and told him that his father would never
consent to our union. Of this he too was well
convinced."

"But," said he, "I am a younger
brother, and have but little or nothing to expect
from my father. I might, perhaps, by managing,
marry an heiress, and live a splendid life of mis-
ery, which I will not do. I am determined to
go to America, that land where all are on equal
terms, where all can be lords if they will only
struggle for the prize. I shall there be shackled by
no ties which bind a younger brother down—
and I will win for myself a name and a fame
which will be lasting. Will you go with me?"

"You will be lasting. Will you go with me?"

"Thus urged by one I dearly loved, I referred
him to my father; and in a short time we were
privately married, my father being present at the
ceremony."

